the Talwar Committee for recovering agricultural dues;

(iii) NABARD has prescribed eligibility criteria for banks to draw refinance against their schematic lending with reference to the recovery performance of the bank; and

(iv) NABARD has advised Regional Rural Banks and Co-operatives to prepare Development Action Plans to revamp their operations with special attention to recovery aspects.

Closure Notices to Textiles Mills by BIFR

1134 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of textile mills of Madhya Pradesh for which a closure decision was taken by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during 1992 to 1995;

(b) the number of mills closed during the said period following the above decision;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to revive the closed mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during 1992-95 it had recommended to the High Court for winding up of the following four sick industrial companies in the textile sector in the state of Madhya Pradesh:

(i) Shel Sajjan Mills

(ii) Gwalior Synthetics Ltd.

(iii) Satal Woollens Pvt. Ltd.

(iv) Jivajeerao Cotton Mills Ltd.

Subsequently, on appeal with Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR), a scheme for rehabilitation was sanctioned by AAIFR for Shree Sajjan Mills on 29.11.1995.

[English]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

1135. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reserved posts meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Communities have been filled up during the last three years in the Finance Ministry and in the banks;

(b) whether any backlog of posts reserved for them remains still unfilled; and

(c) if so, when that backlog is expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Shortage of Coins

1136. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has brought to the notice of the Government of acute shortage of coins in its offices all over the country; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Coins of different denomination (Rs. 5, 2, 1, 50p, 25p, 10p and 5p) are manufactured in the India Government Mints under the administrative control of this Ministry. The coins are produced keeping in view the demand of the RBI and production capacity of the mints. The temporary shortage of coins is due to the decision of the Government to completely coinise Rs. 5, 2 and 1 in currency notes and consequently increasing demand for coins in the said denominations. The decision to coinise completely Rs. 5, 2, and 1 has been taken in order to increase production of higher denominations of notes, by releasing capacity in the Note Printing Presses. Smaller denomination notes are also subjected to more frequent handling. In the case of notes this leads to much shorter life span. Coinising will lead to a much longer life for these denominations. RBI has also confirmed that there is no dearth of Rs. 5 coins which are being issued freely by the bank officers. However, there was a temporary set back in the supplies of other denomination coins (Rs. 2, 1 and 50p) from the Mints, which has now improved. The Government has already taken steps to increase the availability of coins by modernising three Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad thus increasing their capacity to produce more coins in the near future.

Patent of Plants/Animals

1137. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foreign multinational has patented the wound-healing property of Haldi (turmeric);

(b) whether best of Haldi in the world grows in India especially at Meghalaya;

(c) the fallour to this patenting of Haldi;